

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7254
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 05887

E.O. 11652: XGDS 1
TAGS: PGOV, WB, GW, GE, UR
SUBJECT: SOVIET CENTRAL COMMITTEE OFFICIAL'S COMMENTS
ON SOVIET BERLIN POLICY

REFS: (A) 76 USBER 2161 AND PREVIOUS
(B) 75 USBER 661
(C) 75 MOSCOW 4566

1. THE FRG BONN GROUP REP (VON BRAUNMUEHL) HAS INFORMED
US THAT DURING A RECENT VISIT TO MOSCOW, FRG JUSTICE
MINISTER VOGEL TOLD THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE CENTRAL
COMMITTEE'S INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT ZAGLADIN THAT THE
FRG DID NOT UNDERSTAND A SERIES OF SOVIET STEPS IN
WEST BERLIN MATTERS, FOR EXAMPLE THE SOVIET PROTEST
AGAINST THE INDUCTION IN OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
FEDERAL ADMINISTRATIVE COURT BY VOGEL IN 1976 (REF A).
THIS SUPPORTED THE DOUBTS EXPRESSED ABOUT THE SOVIET
GOALS IN THE BERLIN QUESTION. VOGEL SAID THAT THIS
ALSO GIVES IMPETUS TO THE OPPOSITION, AN OPPOSITION
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WITHIN WHOSE RANKS THERE IS ALSO A CERTAIN UNDERSTAND-
ING FOR THE POLICY OF DETENTE AS THE FRG PURSUES IT.
FOR EXAMPLE, VOGEL TOLD ZAGLADIN THAT CDU PARTY CHIEF
KOHL WAS PLANNING AGAIN A TRIP TO MOSCOW, A FACT
WHICH WAS APPARENTLY UNKNOWN TO ZAGLADIN. VOGEL SAID
THAT ONE HAS TO ASK WHETHER, WITH RESPECT TO THE TIES
OF WEST BERLIN TO THE FRG, THE USSR IS SEEKING TO

READ A STATUS QUO MINUS OUT OF THE QA. VOGEL SAID THAT THIS WAS NOT THE FRG INTERPRETATION OF THE QA NOR THAT OF THE WESTERN POWERS.

2. ZAGLADIN REPLIED THAT THE SOVIET POLICY IS NOT 100 PERCENT THOUGHT OUT IN ALL OF ITS RAMIFICATIONS. WHEN THE PROBLEM IS THAT OF THE INCLUSION OF WEST BERLIN IN FRG TREATIES, NOT FOR PURELY LEGAL (COMMENT: PRESUMABLY A REFERENCE TO THE CONCEPT OF BERLIN/FRG "LEGAL UNITY." END COMMENT) OR FUNDAMENTAL REASONS, BUT FOR PRACTICAL REASONS, ANOTHER ATTEMPT SHOULD BE MADE TO FIND A "WORKABLE SOLUTION." HE EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE GERMAN SIDE IS INCLINED TO PUT ABOVE EVERYTHING ELSE THE PRIMARY QUESTION OF THE INCLUSION OF BERLIN IN TREATIES RATHER THAN THE QUESTION OF THE PRACTICAL RELEVANCE OF A TREATY TO BERLIN. HE SAID THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THIS QUESTION OFTEN WITH BREZHNEV AND THE POLITBURO.

3. VOGEL ANSWERED BY UNDERSCORING THE FACTUAL FOUNDATION AND RELEVANCE OF THE INCLUSION OF BERLIN IN THE THREE PENDING FRG/USSR AGREEMENTS, AN ARGUMENT WHICH ZAGLADIN DID NOT CONTEST. THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ALSO TOUCHED, IN THIS CONNECTION, ON THE FEA IN BERLIN.

4. COMMENT: THE SOVIET VIEW THAT BERLIN SHOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL

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INCLUDED IN FRG TREATIES ONLY WHEN THERE IS A "PRACTICAL NECESSITY" FOR DOING SO IS NOT NEW (REFS B AND C). HOWEVER, SINCE THE SOVIET VIEW IS THAT THE EXISTENCE OF FEDERAL OFFICES IN BERLIN IS ILLEGAL IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT EVEN IF THE "PRACTICAL NECESSITY" REQUIREMENT IS MET, THEY WOULD CHANGE THEIR OPPOSITION TO INCLUDING BERLIN WHEN THE PRACTICAL NECESSITY COMES FROM THE FACT THAT FEDERAL OFFICES, SUCH AS THE FEA, ARE LOCATED THERE.

5. ZAGLADIN'S STATEMENT THAT SOVIET POLICY IS NOT 100 PERCENT THOUGHT-THROUGH STRIKES US AS INTERESTING, ESPECIALLY SINCE IT WAS MADE TO AN FRG OFFICIAL, AND MAY HAVE SOME RELEVANCE TO RECENT INDICATIONS THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO THE FRG FALIN IS BECOMING MORE ACTIVE WITH RESPECT TO BERLIN AND THAT HE SHOWS A SOMEWHAT MORE CONCILIATORY ATTITUDE THAN HIS COUNTERPART IN EAST BERLIN (SEPTEL).
STOESSEL

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